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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1942

With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.
—Roosevelt's War Message

Star-NewsProgram

To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.

Public Port Terminals.

Perfected Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities.

Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.

Extension of City Limits.

35-foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington.

Paved River Road to Southport, via Orton Plantation.

Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina.

Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax.

Shipyards and Drydocks.

Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital.

Adequate hospital facilities for white.

Junior High School.

Tobacco Warehouses for Export Buyers.

Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina.

Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TOP OF THE MORNING

Life is a mission. Every other definition of life is false, and leads all who accept it astray.
—MAZZINI.

Glad To See You, Postmasters

Carolina postmasters, assembled at Wrightsville Beach for their annual convention, are particularly welcome, not only because they are universally choice souls doing good work but for the opportunity their presence provides to spread the news that Wilmington's beach resorts are not under a heavy handicap because of the war. Naturally, upon their return home, they will let it be known that life goes on very much as usual on the coast, save for the essential nightly dimout.

Some vicious reports were scattered over the state last winter, when it was temporarily intended to exclude the coastal area from the state's advertising. Fortunately this folly was quickly abandoned, but the impression had been given, and is still prevalent in some sections, that the resort season was to be very much of a dud this year. The postmasters can be the finest of missionaries in counteracting any lingering belief in their communities that Wrightsville Beach is to be a deserted village for the duration. It is far from that.

But the postmasters are welcome too in their own right. May their visit be long remembered as among the pleasantest in their convention record.

That's The Spirit

Competition in war production has grown so keen that if it were not for the tremendous need of the nation for war equipment it would be amusing. As it is we can take comfort in the knowledge that even the great among manufacturing firms are exhibiting exhilaration over their accomplishments and programs similar to that of small boys when they beat up their schoolmates.

Thus, we may smile, if we like, but we must be deeply grateful too, when the Chrysler Corporation boasts that it will build an airplane engine plant near Chicago "big enough to put the Ford Willow Run bomber plant inside and have room for twenty baseball diamonds around the edges."

What power or combination of powers can hope to compete with this spirit or hope to stifle the production it inspires?

Libyan Battle Flares Up

Fighting in Libya breaks out with increased fury, much as a prairie fire, reaching fresh fuel and fanned by vagrant breezes, its dying embers revived, leaps again to the onslaught.

Worthless in itself, Libya is among the most highly strategic zones in this war. Both the Allies and the Axis have good reasons for wanting to possess it wholly and exclusively. In its possession either would hold a distinct advantage, with heavy odds against the other.

General Rommel, the German leader, for example, once in control of Libya, would be in position to advance eastward on Egypt, threaten the Suez canal, the oil fields of Iraq and Iran, even to invade India and form a junction with Hitler's forces advancing from Russia, if they should meet success in their Caucasian campaign. Or he could swing westward with Dakar as his objective and in the taking of which with Laval's aid the Axis could increase its Atlantic submarine attack on Allied shipping and menace South America. It is conceivable that, backed by a major victory on the southern Mediterranean shores, the Axis, with the French war fleet, could bottle up the British fleet and either immobilize it by cutting it off from supplies or destroy it, ship by ship.

On the other hand, should the British, with their colonial reinforcements and American equipment, drive the Germans out of Libya, the situation in the Middle East, now extremely serious, would be substantially eased, not only because the enemy would no longer be in its deserts but because of the lessening strain of maintaining a foothold in a spot from which a European counter-offensive could be launched when the right time arrives.

Heretofore the battle of Libya has been a thrust and parry affair with the British and the Germans holding the advantage alternately. This cannot be long continued. The war in Europe—and Libya is an outpost of the European battle—has reached a stage when both sides in the world conflict must move quickly and efficiently on all fronts. Hitler dare no long delay an all-out effort to take Libya lest his enemies wrest it wholly from Rommel and send an expeditionary force from its shores. The Allies, likewise, would suffer gravely and be subjected to serious delays in their rapidly unfolding plans to create a second front in Europe should they permit a Rommel triumph.

The next few days may bring news of this important battle which will have an effect upon the duration of the war, whether it shall be ended, as many contend it can be, this year, or stretch its bloody course far into the future.

Vote For Bailey

Senator Josiah W. Bailey has remained in Washington instead of returning to North Carolina to wage a campaign for re-election because he has held his duty to the nation of more importance than any private undertaking.

We hold courage of this sort a strong recommendation and indisputable evidence of the man's integrity, sincerity and fidelity.

This alone is a good reason to retain him in the Senate. But it is not his only qualification for the high office he now holds.

Here are three others:

He is accepted in Washington as one of the foremost statesmen and legislators of this era. He has consistently supported defense and war legislation both before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

His influence as chairman of the powerful Commerce Committee, in carrying to completion the program for 2,300 merchant vessels to serve as a lifeline to American soldiers and our allies is recognized, and appreciated, by the administration and has been singled out for high praise by Admiral Emory S. Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission, and by Robert H. Hinckley, assistant secretary of commerce for aviation, as well as other Democratic leaders.

It is inconceivable that North Carolina voters will be willing to trade experience for inexperience when they go to the polls tomorrow to vote in the primary election which will name candidates for the general election next November.

Ain't It Awful, Mabel?

Long ago—so long ago, it seems now—when bobbing was only a fad instead of a fixation, its advocates pled for its general adoption on the score that women and girls would save time and temper and tears.

The filmsiness of the argument was soon apparent when our lady friends began to spend hours under a tin hat like soldiers and ship welders wear, but heavier and filled with heat and contrivances to manufacture curls of questionable preservation.

Instead of reducing women's hirsute annoyances the bob increased them and piled up costs they never knew before. Now, what with the war and priorities and a metal shortage, and in face of a general habit, the day may be not far distant when there will be no more bobby pins, and our girl friends will have something else to harass them.

Gosh, what a war!

Community Chest

No more important gathering of civic leaders to deal with Wilmington's major problems has been called in many moons than the meeting scheduled to be held this afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce to consider the creation of a Community Chest.

Hopefully the consideration will bring a decision favorable to the chest.

Last fall and winter brought fourteen separate campaigns for charities or organizations

chiefly dependent for support upon contributions from the people. Fourteen times solicitors visited places of business or rang doorbells of homes to secure signatures on the dotted line with varying amounts written upon the pledge.

Many of the crusades were launched with breakfasts or dinners, with the cost deducted from gross receipts. In some cases a meal for workers was served daily. It came about that the costs of these campaigns were so great that the total money requested had to be increased over actual budgetary requirements.

That is not good economics, as any business man will testify. But there are other reasons for consolidating all drives into one major effort. If it were done workers would make one solicitation instead, as last season, fourteen, thus having thirteen times more time for their own business engagements and imposing upon those solicited thirteen fewer interruptions. And right now "time is of the essence."

The Community Chest has been employed for years in many cities successfully. There is no reason to fear that it would be less successful here, once it was firmly established. Certainly it would be a relief to the workers and the people generally.

Washington Daybook

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The President the other day set his foot down on "loose talk" on war matters. It isn't the first time, but never before has he been so emphatic in declaring that there is too much of it afloat and I don't believe ever before has he denounced Washington as being a worse offender than all the rest of the country put together.

There's a good reason for his warning. Washington has become the last free news center of the world on stories dealing with the war. Yet Washington, for all its unprecedented demonstration of unity of war effort (the records of the Civil and even World War I are far less admirable than the present war in the matter of national capital unity) still is a democracy operating on a political basis.

There still are political jealousies and ambitions, petty personal quarrels, and men in high places whose judgment as to what they should or shouldn't divulge is swayed by individual feelings, or the necessity for self-justification.

Of the major nations involved in the war, this is the last outpost of the democratic principles of untrammelled speech, with Canada, Australia and England close behind. In the Axis nations, news is manufactured to suit the war and propaganda machines.

Still, all the important information available to the United Nations flows through Washington. The State Department is in constant touch with every friendly nation in the world. The Army and Navy have the facts of war as rapidly as they can be transmitted. Most of these facts are placed at the disposal of the scores of bureaus, agencies and departments involved.

Only by having such facts as soon as they are known could they shape their war policies. Even if only the key men in these war agencies were given these facts and they discussed them only with agency boards of strategy, the number of persons involved would probably run into the thousands.

Yet the leaks of actual fact in Washington probably could be counted on the fingers, and no thumbs.

It's the rumor that does the damage and although I don't presume to interpret the President, I think that is what he was referring to. The fantastic, warped misinformation that floats on the fringe of Washington officialdom is startling.

For a dime a dozen, you could get "the actual numbers" of ships lost at Pearl Harbor. The "inside stories" on Bataan, the "real facts" about the bombing of Tokyo; the "real-est-to-goodness reasons" for our troops landing in Ireland have been as thick as briars in a blackberry patch.

The sad part of it is that some of these were planted by Axis agents and propagandists. That, in part at least, is why the President delivered his verbal spanking.

Editorial Comment

WPA VS. DEFENSE

The President's reduction in the budget estimate for the Work Projects Administration in the fiscal year 1943 from \$465,000,000 to \$280,000,000 is an encouraging sign of the beginning of economy in nondefense expenditures. Even more encouraging is the President's intimation that other forms of relief may in time lead to the "possible elimination" of WPA.

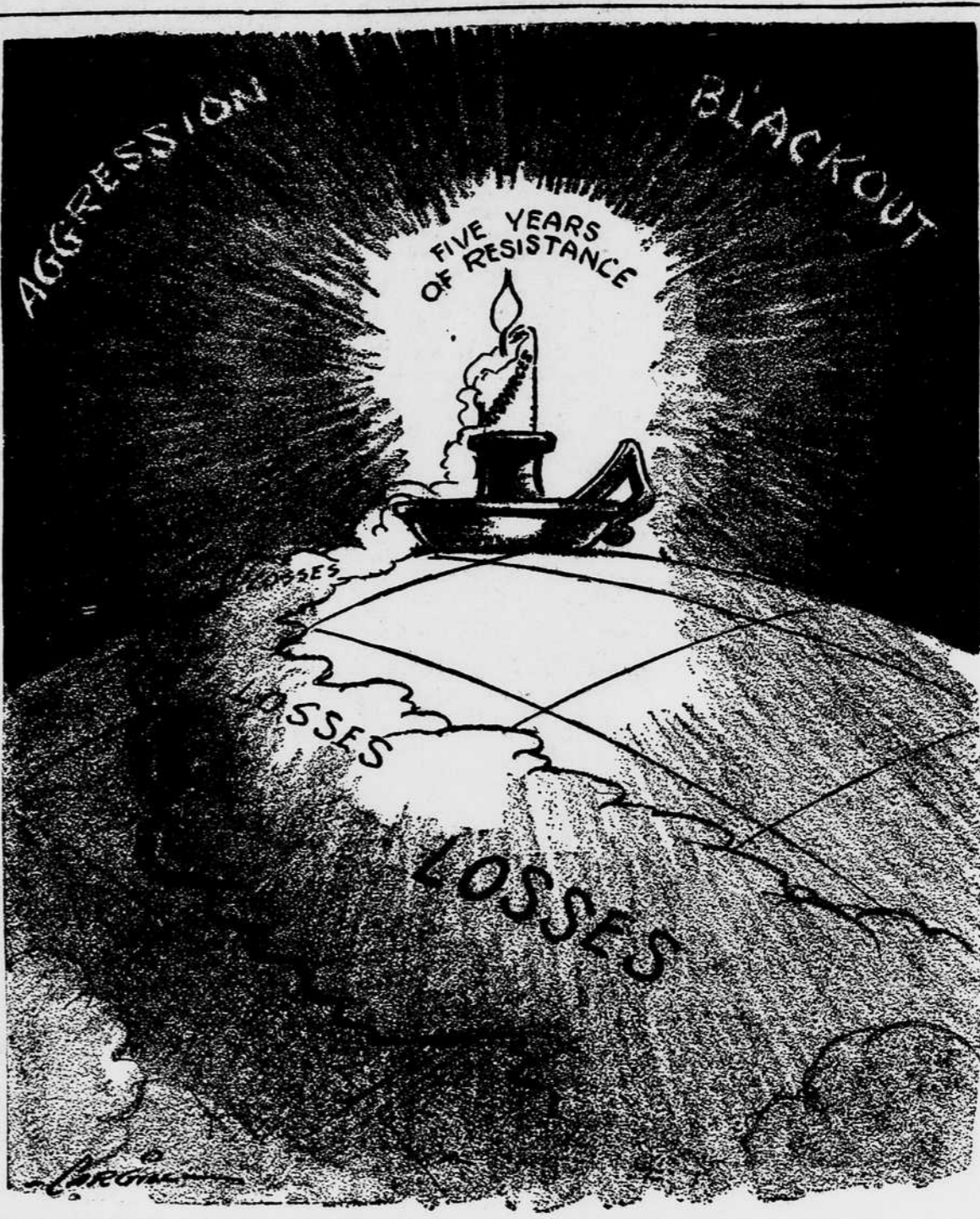
WPA has been from the beginning a peculiar hybrid. It has provided neither normal employment nor a sound system of relief based on family need. When it has been criticized as unselective, poorly disciplined, inefficient and costly employment, it has been defended as "relief"; and when it has been criticized as lopsided, maladjusted and expensive relief, it has been defended as "employment." In wartime, with its consequent labor shortage, WPA has become an anachronism even on its own premises. How can we justify deliberately inventing "projects" to "provide employment," when there is not enough labor to do the work that needs to be done?

WPA can defend itself only by alleging that it is doing work for "defense." If it argues, however, that more than a third of its employees are working on "defense" projects, this is only another way of conceding that nearly two-thirds of its workers are engaged on non-defense projects. It is difficult to see how a diversion to the latter can be justified when citizens are being asked to give up peace-time comforts and when the Government's ducection. Even the declared percentage of "defense" projects is not above suspicion, moreover. For though such projects are doubtless of use for defense, the question may be raised whether some of them would have been undertaken or thought of at all if it had not been for the need to supply WPA work. A dual aim like this is likely to be a divided aim and seldom leads to an efficient concentration of energies.

If men are employable in any real sense, they should either be trained for war work or trained to take the present private jobs of workers who can be trained for war work. If they are not employable in this real sense, then they should be placed on straight relief, and not put to using up needed materials.

Some persons now on WPA can be put under a broadened Social Security program

CHINATOWN, WHERE LIGHTS ARE LOW



As Others Say It

A PROLIFIC POTATO VINE

A potato vine which was bearing a half dozen small green tomatoes was brought to Titusville Thursday by Oscar Smith, Sharpes resident. The vine was among others of a potato patch and appeared to be exactly like all the other vines. It had no new potatoes at the roots, but the fruit it was bearing exactly resembled young tomatoes. One of them which had been crushed contained seeds and possessed the odor of a tomato. —Titusville (Fla.) Star-Advocate.

WAR AND MARRIAGE

Dorothy Dix considers it a mistake for people to marry during the war. She evidently figures there's enough fighting going on in the world already. —Roanoke (Va.) Times.

RELATIVE SACRIFICES

When we read descriptions of what the men of Bataan suffered in hunger and tatters and sickness and lack of medical supplies, all for the perpetuation of our liberties, and the protection of their country, it makes gas and sugar rationing, high taxes and buying of war bonds and stamps look trivial by comparison. —Charlotte Observer.

FUN ON A TRACTOR

Tip to young men in love who can't get hold of a car as the scarcity grows: Why not borrow a big rubber-tired farm tractor to take your girl out for a spin? Just rig up an extra seat or maybe she can sit on your lap. Probably more fun than a roadster. —Harlan Miller in the Des Moines Sunday Register.

Raymond Clapper Says:

We Must Plan To Get Something Out Of War

By RAYMOND CLAPPER

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Here's something that puzzles me. When you talk about the need of organizing this world so that nations can operate in their daily affairs without having everything upset every 20 years by a general war, people say it sounds good but it isn't practical.

I have a good many friends, and some of them tell me that on some days I seem very practical and realistic and on other days I seem visionary and a sucker for beautiful dreams.

Perhaps so. No man is a good judge of himself. Yet I'm inclined to be stubborn about this.

I have been reporting politics and public affairs for some years. I've seen many realists in action and many so-called theorists.

A couple of years ago Washington had up the question of whether steel capacity should be enlarged. New Deal economists were giving me arguments to show that even through steel plants were then not running to full capacity the war would require more than we had built at that time. But I found several practical steel men disagreeing. They showed me figures, explained the intricacies of the industry, and put up a convincing case as to why we would need.

Yet today we have not enough steel for the ships and tanks we could build. But it is too late to build more capacity. The theorists were right in their judgment.

You can say they were only guessing, were only letting their imaginations run riot, but time and again I have seen the hunches of the outsiders come nearer the mark than the detailed calculations of the insiders.

Last winter President Roosevelt's production goals were put down as fantastic by most people who knew the practical difficulties. They said it was good propaganda but of course utterly impossible. Yet we are going to meet those goals and pass them in some respects.

Sometimes practical men are so preoccupied with the difficulties—and naturally they are more aware of the difficulties than the outsider—that their best judgment of what can be done is warped. I suspect that in any business—as it is in our newspaper business—the man at the top, who isn't in touch with many of the details, is a better judge of what to do than some others who know the details of the business far more thoroughly.

After some years as a reporter I am not inclined to be too much impressed with the argument that a thing is not practical. I have seen it work the other way too often. Isn't the best team in a business a pair of fellows, one yeasty full of all kinds of wild ideas, crazy as hell, keeping everybody dizzy with his overworking imagination, and the other a less imaginative, methodical mind who shakes it all down and knows how to get it done?

Haven't we got some such problem in this job that the war is going to thrust at us? There will be figure out how this world can be run without jumping off the track and ripping up everybody's life. The State Department analyses of those difficulties probably cover acres of white paper. It would be easy to convince anybody that no scheme is practical, that no detail of a proposition is practical.

Yet which makes sense — to let it ride and go through this repeatedly, or to find a way to prevent it or make it less likely? Is there anything more practical in this world than an attempt to find some way of fixing things up so that five or six million American young men can go on about their lives, marry, establish themselves in business and professions and in useful jobs?

The war is going to be won some day. Will we be ready to make that victory mean something practical? Or will we throw it away in another political argument?

This war is costing us a lot in lives and every other way. The practical thing, it seems to me, is to begin planning to get something for it.

But when you start talking that way, then people say you're getting visionary and impractical. 5

RIISING TAXES

Income taxes that will be twice what you paid last year are on the way, judging from the first stories coming from the house ways and means committee. The county will not mind paying these taxes, if it knows that every cent possible is going to the defeat of Hitler. —Gastonia Gazette.

Interpreting The War

Beleaguered Tobruk Bastion Immediate Goal Of Axis Drive

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Whatever else as to Hitler's strategy can be read in to the renewed Axis attack in Libya on British outposts for defense of Egypt, it is clear that the Tobruk bastion is Marshal Rommel's immediate objective.

Military opinion on both sides of the Atlantic seems agreed that the war-wrecked Libyan port, scene of an unforgettable stand by British Imperials for many months although completely cut off except by sea, is the key point of the fifth Libyan campaign. However, even if the Nazis captured Tobruk, they probably would not try to invade Egypt immediately.

Word that one of four armored Nazi spearheads launched eastward had knifed to within fifteen miles of Tobruk's inner defense in the first rush strengthening the belief that Rommel has strictly limited objectives. This belief is based partially on difficulties of hot season offensive operations in the Libyan desert; but even more on the fact that with in a month or so the sand storm period which makes an inferno of the trackless battle ground will be at hand.

Nobody who has experienced Libyan sand storms has a good word for them. They not only make desert life all but unbearable but render war a blind-man's bluff affair, sand-laden air obscures the vision both of troops on the ground and of air observers soaring above the gritty clouds. Even the desert landmarks by which tank pilots and airmen check their positions are subject to the whim of the winds. Great sand dunes disappear at one point to rise at another as if by magic.

That Rommel can hope to break through British defenses and into Egypt deep enough within the next four weeks to get beyond range of the land devices is wholly improbable. The truth appears to be that he is now seeking only to seize the -ruk outpost—which jammed like a poisoned thorn into the sea flank of his last abortive offensive—in order to prepare the ground for later major operations.

Nazi possession of Tobruk is essential to an invasion attempt on Egypt. It would require something more than mere holding of the port, however, to implement a drive far beyond it into Egypt effectively.

The previous Libyan campaigns have demonstrated that aggressive mechanized action in the desert has a strict limit. It is fixed by communications with the rear. It has worked out each time at about 400 miles.

The fact that made the heroic British stand at Tobruk possible was British sea control. The Tobruk garrison was supplied by sea at night when darkness rendered Nazi planes all but sightless.

Tobruk is now vitally important to the British outpost defense line for Egypt because it can be used as a seaport supplement to the land communications supporting the front. Lacking sea control, it could not equally serve Rommel as a forward base to attack Egypt, at least until he had been able to stock it with fuel, ammunition and food supplies by truck trains. And that, against British air power on naval guns, would take time, particularly since the British front in western Egypt or eastern Libya is primarily rail-fed from Alexandria.

Malruh, the British railhead, lies 140 miles east of the Libyan-Egyptian border, connecting up with a hard-surfaced highway beyond that. All the advantage of better roads with the British in this fifth battle of Libya which further implies that Rommel's mission is not strictly limited in objective; but possibly designed as a diversion play to draw British attention away from some other Nazi offensive move.

Factographs

Migratory birds were hemisphere conscious long before man ever thought of the idea of hemisphere unity. Ranging in both North and South America, the migratory birds do not confine themselves to either of the two continents in the western hemisphere, according to Frederick C. Lincoln, United States fish and wildlife service biologist.

Bloodstone has the hardness of quartz, which is not particularly hard, but hard enough to stand up as an ornamental stone. Bloodstone from India is the best.

Twenty-four autos contain enough steel and rubber for one 2-ton United States Army tank.

Is That So!

WHAT'S THIS about Adolf the Awful and Fat Guy Goering not on good speaking terms? Has Herr Goebbels "Good Humor Month" campaign gone into reverse? Could be.

On a gas ration card, as in algebra, "X" seems to equal the unknown quantity.

The Russians have been knocking down Nazi planes at the rate of 100 a day. Marshal Timoshenko certainly believes in shooting the works.